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PULWAMA-TYPE ATTACK AVERTED IN KASHMIR: ARMY

The Indian Army on Thursday averted a Pulwama-style terror attack in the Union Territory, seizing a huge haul of explosives

52 KG OF EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED

Army officers said that around 52 kg of explosives were recovered in the Karewa area of Gadikal in Kashmir, which is located barely 9 km from the site of last year's deadly Pulwama terror attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead. "We have averted another Pulwama-type attack," said an officer from the Indian Army.

RANGE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION

- The explosives, which were seized after a series of searches, include Super-90 and 50 detonators
- Meanwhile, three Hizbul Mujahideen militants and a civilian woman were killed, while two CRPF personnel sustained injuries, in a pre-dawn gunbattle in Batamaloo | P8

416

PACKETS OF EXPLOSIVES SEIZED, EACH WEIGHING 125 GM

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

First wicket falls in Modi ministry as Badal quits over 'anti-farm' bills

'Farmers not taken on board'

Harsimrat said she was hurt that despite her persistent pleas, the government had not taken the farmers on board

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE first hint of a crack in the ruling NDA appeared on Thursday as Union Minister for Food Processing, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who represents the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) at the Centre, put in her papers opposing what she called were 'anti-farm' legislations. Though she stepped out of the government, sources said the SAD will continue to stay with the BJP-led NDA coalition.

Her party is bitterly opposed to three Bills the Centre introduced in the Lok Sabha to replace three ordinances on reforming the farm sector, which includes dismantling the decades-old *mandi* system.

The ordinances had angered the agrarian sector in Punjab, which is the SAD's core constituency, forcing its hand.

Harsimrat and her husband and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal are the only two party MPs in the Lok Sabha. It was Sukhbir who broke the news of her resignation while participating in an LS debate on the farm sector Bills. Sukhbir said Harsimrat had flagged her reservations when the matter was discussed at a Cabinet meeting. The decision to quit was taken at the SAD's core committee meet on Saturday.

"My decision symbolises my party's vision, its glorious legacy and its commitment to go to any extent to safeguard the interests of the farmers," Harsimrat said in a four-page letter of resignation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The *mandi* system the Bills propose to abolish has political patronage. Farmer bodies and political parties in Punjab and Haryana are worried that the new system that will be put in place could end the minimum support price mechanism, too.

The resignation is meant to undo the SAD's self-inflicted damage, as in the past its leadership had supported the ordinances. In fact, party cadre were not allowed to enter many villages by the angry farm lobby. Farmer outfits in Punjab have already announced that MPs who do not vote against the Bills and abstain will not be allowed to enter the state. P7

> **Harsimrat Kaur's decision to quit Union Cabinet is another in the long chain of theatrics being enacted by @Akali_Dal_ which has still not quit ruling coalition. It's motivated not by any concern for farmers but to save their own dwindling political fortunes.** - Amarinder Singh, CM

LAC situation unlike past face-offs: Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister says Indian troops won't ease patrolling intensity along border areas; MEA urges China not to escalate matters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

OFFERING a glimpse of the dynamic situation on the Line of Actual Control, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation between Indian and Chinese troops is unlike any in the past.

But Indian troops are well prepared for any eventuality and are conducting intense patrolling along the LAC, Singh said in the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to former Defence Minister A K Antony query on whether Indian soldiers are being stopped from patrolling in certain areas, Singh said: "I want to clarify that the face-off is because of it and patrolling is done on traditional pattern. No power in the world can stop our soldiers from patrolling there and there will be no change in patrolling pattern."

He asserted that India will not accept any change in its traditional and well-defined patrolling pattern.

The Defence Minister, however, expressed his inability to divulge more information in public because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Singh's statement comes in the wake of the Chinese foreign ministry's comment that India needs to "correct mistakes", realise disengagement on the ground and take concrete steps to ease up tension in the relevant areas.

An army convoy carrying military material on its way to Ladakh amid border tensions with China, at Manali-Leh highway on Thursday | PTI

Rajya Sabha members expressed solidarity with the armed forces and said they all stand united behind them.

"We stand by India's sovereignty and with the Government and it must restore status quo ante and send the Chinese back to their pre-April positions," said Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu told Singh the government should create a mechanism whereby members of all political parties are regularly briefed about the situation.

Many Rajya Sabha members said the government should be careful when dealing with Beijing keeping in mind their character to "betray".

Meanwhile, the External Affairs Ministry issued a nuanced statement calling for steps to ease tensions in friction areas by refraining from actions that may escalate the situation

"The Chinese side should sincerely work with the Indian side for complete disengagement at the earliest," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had claimed the Chinese troops had been abiding by agreements and it was India which was taking aggressive steps to vitiate atmosphere. P7

Cabinet rejig: BSY to meet PM today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa, who reached New Delhi on Thursday by a special flight, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday morning.

He will discuss cabinet expansion and other issues affecting the state, like floods and Covid-19, and seek more grants for development works.

In Delhi, he told the media, "I have come here to discuss development issues and also to get the party leadership's approval for cabinet expansion."

Late on Thursday evening, party national general secretary B L Santhosh called on Yediyurappa at Karnataka Bhavan.

Yediyurappa, accompanied by Deputy CM Govind Karjol, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda, too, was present when Yediyurappa called on the Finance Minister. His meeting with BJP national president J P Nadda is scheduled for Friday.

During his stopover at Kalaburgi for the Kalyana Karnataka Utsava earlier in the day, the Chief Minister told media persons that he will discuss with the PM and other senior leaders regarding release of more grants to take up flood relief works, irrigation projects in the state, development works and opening more Covid-19 testing centres and treatment facilities apart from cabinet expansion.

When asked whether he would expand his cabinet before the start of the legislature session, Yediyurappa said that he is ready to do it if the party bosses give the nod.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa calls on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Thursday, during his visit to the national capital | EXPRESS

JARKIHOLI MEETS FADNAVIS IN DELHI

Karnataka Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi is also in Delhi along with MLA Adagur H Vishwanath, but are not accompanying the CM. Jarkiholi met former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis to seek his help in pushing for his demand on cabinet expansion. Also in Delhi is M P Renukacharya, who is an aspirant for a cabinet berth. P3

SHHHH! MINISTER SRIRAMULU HAS A WISH

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

MINISTER Sriramulu has one wish. And doesn't want anyone to know what it is.

On a day when Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa landed in the national capital to discuss ministry expansion, Health Minister Sriramulu sought divine intervention to become Deputy CM.

Sriramulu, who was in Yadgir on Thursday to participate in the Kalyana Karnataka Utsava celebrations, visited the Durga Devi temple in Gade village.

When the minister visited the temple, he was told about the practice there that the devotees would write their wish on a chit of paper addressed to the presiding deity and hand it over to the priest.

Sriramulu quietly wrote something in a chit and gave it to the priest of the temple, Mareppa. CONTINUED ON: P5

SPECIAL CBI COURT ORDERS REGISTRATION OF CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST ARUN SHOURIE

A special court on Thursday ordered the CBI to register a criminal case against former Union minister Arun Shourie over alleged corruption in the 2002 divestment of a state-owned hotel in Udaipur, Rajasthan

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

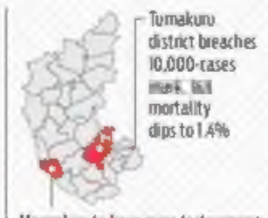
9,366 Test Positive on Thursday

1,03,631 Total Active Cases

TOTAL CASES **4,94,356**

3,83,077 Total Discharges

7,629 Total Deaths


Tumakuru district breaches 10,000-cases mark, fall in mortality dips to 1.4%
Mangaluru to have more tests among vulnerable sections of people

FULL COVERAGE P4

EXPRESS READ

Trump identifies India, others for drug transit

Washington: US President Donald Trump has identified India along with 20 other nations as major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries and asserted that his administration is taking the fight to criminal organisations engaged in narcotics substances. Trump also designated Bolivia and Venezuela as having failed to adhere to agreements

NLAT 2020: SC to pass order on September 21

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said it will pronounce its order on September 21 on a petition which has challenged the decision of NLSIU, Bengaluru, to conduct its separate entrance examination NLAT-2020. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan reserved its order on the plea filed by former NLSIU VC Professor R Venkata Rao and the parent of an aspirant.

NIA questions Kerala Minister Jaleel

Kochi/Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Minister K T Jaleel was questioned for over eight hours on Thursday by the NIA probing the terror angle in the gold smuggling case, prompting the opposition to intensify protests demanding his resignation. But Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rejected it. Rallying behind Jaleel, the chief minister said there was no need for the former to resign. P5

RS member Ashok Gasti dies due to Covid-19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

NEWLY-ELECTED BJP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Gasti died due to Covid-19 in Bengaluru late on Thursday night.

A statement from Manipal Hospital director Dr Manish Rai said, "Ashok Gasti, who was admitted to Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, on September 2, was diagnosed with severe Covid-19 pneumonia and passed away at 10.31 pm on Thursday. He was 55 years old. He was critically ill with multi-organ failure, on life support system in the intensive care unit and under constant observation by our expert panel of doctors. We deeply regret the loss and express our condolences to his family and friends."

"Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ashok Gasti was a dedicated Karyakarta who worked hard to strengthen the party in Karnataka. He was passionate about empowering the poor and marginalised sections of society. Anguished by his passing away. Condolences to his family and friends. Om Shanti," tweeted PM Narendra Modi. P5

IKEA's new global office to come up in Bengaluru

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

SWEDISH furniture giant IKEA will set up its new global office in Bengaluru and hire for key roles as the company is planning to expand its digital footprint in line with the new consumer shopping trends shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic.

An IKEA India spokesperson told TNIE that the company is in the middle of the hiring process and will continue to recruit more talent targeted at setting up a digital framework in the country. The company is investing in a new global office to operate within the areas of Global Business Operations (GBO), digital, and centres of expertise (CoE) which will help streamline, simplify and standardise ways of working and operations, while diversifying the overall digital footprint, IKEA said in a statement. The office will operate from the Karle Special Economic Zone in Bengaluru.

Currently IKEA's GBO centers operate in cities including Poznan (Poland), Shanghai (China) and Baltimore (US). Bengaluru will be the first Indian city which will be the key partner for the group functions such as finance, digital, procurement and people & culture to transform, operate and continuously improve ways of working. Besides, it will also be the centre for digital development, innovation and operations, according to the furniture retailer. P10

WITH THIS ISSUE CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE

INDULGE

28 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

IT INDUSTRY VETERAN

At 77, Happy Mind Soota is building good companies

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

FROM the dotcom boom in late 90s to the e-commerce digital wave in the past few years, one man has seen it all and made the most of it. Seventy-seven-year-old **Ashok Soota**, an IIT Roorkee graduate, has built phenomenal companies and he is not stopping yet. On Thursday, Soota, who was awarded as the Electronics Man of the Year award in 1992, said during the public listing of his company, Happiest Minds, that he has built a born digital, born agile company which is growing at compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20 per cent compared to the traditional IT industry average of 8-15 per cent.

"Much of it has been possible because we derive 97 per cent of our revenues from digital businesses, unlike the big IT service providers. And our focus is on edtech, hitech verticals which will gain more prominence in a post-pandemic environment," Soota said.

Happiest Mind's revenue in FY20 crossed $100 million (Rs 714 crore) and 76 per cent of its businesses remained unimpacted by COVID disruption, he added.

As far as his success rate with IPOs go, Soota bettered his performance this time as against his earlier company's Mindtree's public issue in 2007. Happiest Minds debuted on the stock exchanges at Rs 351 per share at almost double the IPO price of Rs 161 per share. While Mindtree's IPO was oversubscribed by 103 times, for Happiest Minds, the oversubscription was 151 times, through which it raised Rs 700 crore. Industry analysts have in fact called Happiest Mind's IPO debut as one of the most successful public issues of the last decade.

"I should add here that we filed for IPO virtually in the middle of a pandemic and we have been able to achieve all this success when the global markets are facing a challenge," Soota said. P10